AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A system for planning installation of a plurality of application or service components, comprising:

an interface component for entering desired system configuration information that includes information identifying selected components to be installed, the interface component provides an installation procedure based on dependency requirements for a plurality of application or service components;, the system configuration information further includes information identifying a plurality of computers across which the components are to be installed, the installation procedure further identifying an order for installing the selected components on each of the plurality of computers; and

a dependency engine that, in response to a determination that improper dependency exists based on the selected components, automatically adds necessary components to correct dependency.

2-6   (Cancelled)

7.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 [[6]], further including a file generating component programmed to generate a file identifying a relationship between each of the plurality of computers and the selected components that are to be installed.

8.   (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the interface component further comprises computer-executable instructions for writing the file to a predetermined data location.

9.   (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the predetermined data location comprises an object of a distributed directory.

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10.   (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the object further comprises a group object for characterizing a virtual group of computers, the group object including at least one computer object for identifying member computers of the virtual group, the computer object including at least one component object for characterizing the components selected to be installed on the member computers.

11.   (Original) The system of claim 9, further including a setup engine operable to access the object and automate at least a portion of an associated installation process based on the information stored in the object.

12.   (Currently Amended) A method for planning installation of a plurality of application or service components, comprising:

selecting a plurality of service components to be installed utilizing a user interface;

determining an installation procedure based on dependency requirements for the selected components; ~~and~~

identifying a plurality of computers across which the selected components are to be installed, the installation procedure providing an order for installing the selected components on each of the plurality of computers; and

adding each component necessary to ensure proper dependency between the selected components automatically when improper dependency exists based on the components selected.

13-16   (Cancelled)

17.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 [[16]], further including generating a file that defines a relationship between each of the plurality of computers and the selected components that are to be installed.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 17, writing the file to a predetermined data location.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the predetermined data location comprises an object of a distributed directory.

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20.   (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the object further includes a group object for characterizing a virtual group of computers, the group object including at least one computer object for identifying member computers of the virtual group, the computer object including at least one component object for characterizing the components selected to be installed on the member computers.

21.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, further including employing the object to select at least one component for installation based on information stored in the object.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 12, further including printing the installation procedure.

23.   (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 12.

24.   (Currently Amended) A data packet adapted to be transmitted between at least two processes, the data packet comprising:
          an interface component for entering desired system configuration information, the interface component providing an installation procedure based on dependency requirements for a plurality of application or service components, wherein the configuration information includes information identifying selected components to be installed, and information identifying a plurality of computers across which the components are to be installed, the installation procedure further identifying an order for installing the selected components on each of the plurality of computers; and
          a dependency engine programmed to ensure proper dependency between selected components, wherein the dependency engine is programmable to automatically add each component necessary to ensure proper dependency in response to determining that improper dependency exists based on the selected components.

25.   (Currently Amended) A computer implemented system that facilitates installation of a plurality of application or service components, comprising:

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means for selecting a plurality of application or service components associated with a suite to be installed;

means for identifying dependency requirements for the plurality of application or service components;

means for identifying a plurality of computers across which the selected components are to be installed;

means for generating an installation procedure for the selected components based on the dependency requirements, the installation procedure providing an order for installing the selected components on each of the plurality of computers; and

means for automatically adding components to correct dependency of selected components.